

## *Crops Review*

---

### **General**

Abundant rainfall throughout the state proved to make 2000 a crop year to remember. Harvests of most crops reached or greatly exceeded expectations. Only the harvest of hay was impacted by the above average rainfall. Barley, corn and soybeans all set record high production and/or yields.

### **Corn**

The corn season was the best in years. Corn for grain yield averaged a record high 155 bushels per acre, and production totaled 62.8 million bushels. This was 88 percent above the 33.5 million bushel crop of 1999. The corn for grain yield was up 62 bushels per acre from 1999, a 67 percent increase. Corn for grain was harvested from 405,000 acres, 45,000 acres above the 1999 harvest level of 360,000 acres. Harvested acreage was the highest since 1997 when 410,000 acres were harvested. Corn silage production totaled 1,400,000 tons, 27 percent greater than last year's production level of 1,100,000 tons. Harvested acres decreased by 30 percent, while yield was higher per acre. Corn silage was harvested from 70,000 acres, compared with 100,000 in 1999. Yield increased to a record high 20 tons per acre, up 9 tons per acre from 1999.

### **Soybeans**

Soybean yield and production set new record highs in 2000. The crop benefitted from the same favorable conditions as corn, especially for double

cropped beans. Areas east of the bay had the highest yields. Soybean production for 2000 totaled 22.1 million bushels, 44 percent more than last year's production level of 15.4 million bushels. The average soybean yield was 43 bushels per acre, 11 bushels more than last year's yield of 32. Soybeans were harvested from 515,000 acres, up 35,000 acres from 1999.

### **Tobacco**

Tobacco was harvested from 5,700 acres, 800 less than 1999. This is the fewest harvested acres on record in Maryland. The production level was 8.3 million pounds, 835,000 pounds less than 1999, a reduction of 9 percent. Yield for Type 32 tobacco was 1,450 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds per acre from 1999.

### **Small Grains**

Small grain growing conditions were favorable throughout the growing season, with the crop condition mainly fair to good. Rain during the harvest season was the only disruption. Winter wheat yielded 63 bushels per acre in 2000, 3 bushels more than 1999. Production on 200,000 harvested acres totaled 12.6 million bushels, up 5 percent from 1999's production total of 12.0 million bushels. Barley production was at 4.1 million bushels, 100,000 bushels more than 1999. Barley was harvested from 50,000 acres in 2000, the same as in 1999. Yield was 82 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels per acre from a year ago and the highest yield on record.